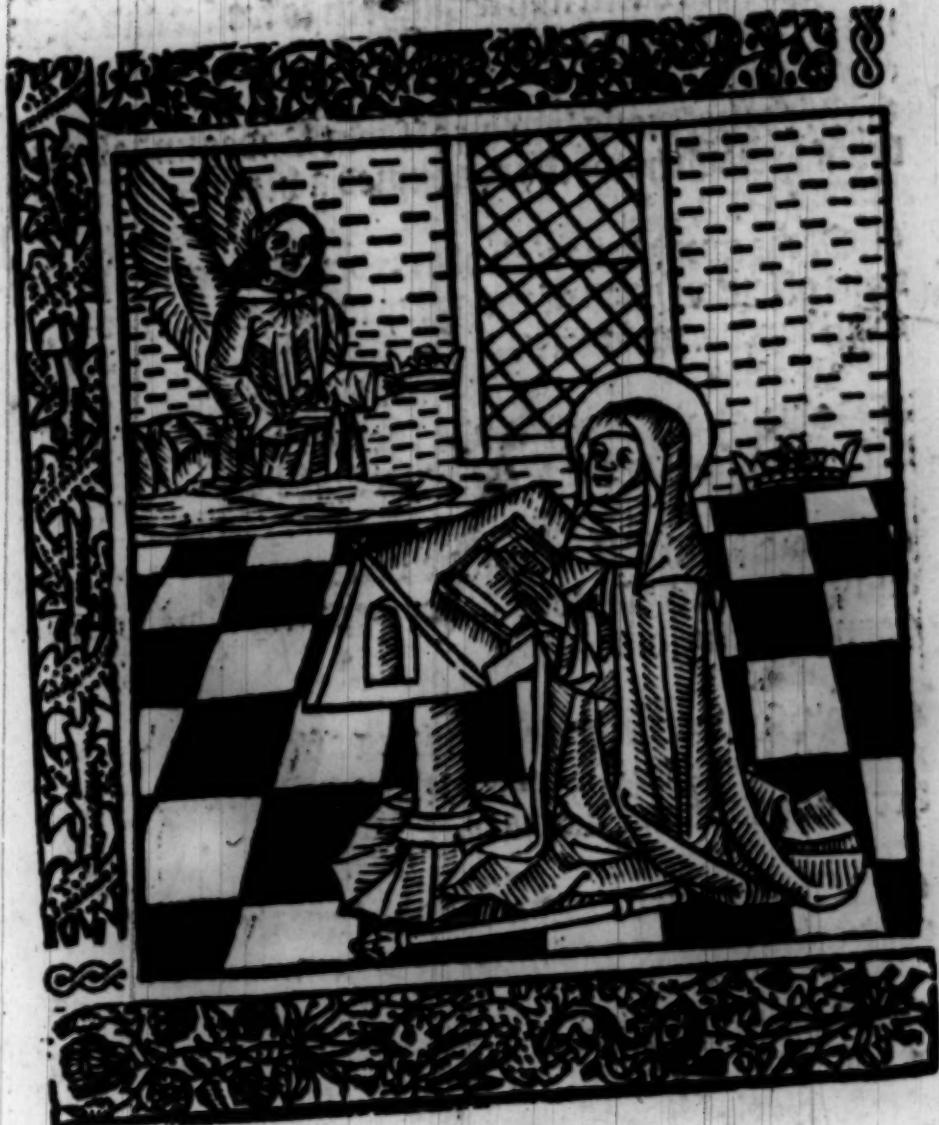


Chere begyneth the lyfe of
saint Radegunde.



The table.

CThe prologue of the translatur of the lyfe of mayde
Radegunde

COf the progeny of saynt Radegunde and howe she
was taken in batell and brought in to fraunce and they
marayed to kyng Lothary.

COf the vertuous lyuyng of saynt Radegunde vndre
spousage / and howe she contynued a virgin.

COf the great deuocion of mayden Radegund in the
tyme of lenton / and of the great mercy & pitie she vled
to all captiue prisoners.

CHowe quene Radegunde shewed a myracle deli-
vering prisoners out of captiuite.

CHowe blessed Radegunde desired to be religious
and of a myracle shewed at her departur by the way
goyng to religion.

CHowe she was made religious & after electe abbasse
and how by grace she was preservued from daunger of
her busbande kyng Lothary.

COf the seruent deuocyon and the great penaunce and
charitable werkes this moniall vled in religion.

COf the great perfection and straute penaunce this
abbasse Radegunde vled in tyme of lenton.

COf the great affliction and hard punyssment lady

Radegund' vsed aboue the course of nature in the sayd
tyme of lenton and other gosly conuersacion to euery
creature.

Chow this holy abbasse refourmed her syster neglig-
ent with a lytell exhortacion folowyng.

Chowe blessed Radegunde deliuered a woman pos-
sessed with a fende from daunger and Payne to helth
and prosperite.

Chow a ratte was slayne without hand approchynge
to hurt the vertuous labour of saynt Radegunde.

Chowe saynt Radegund by prayer reuived a laurell
tre to burge & bryng fourth leaues without rote.

Chowe saynt Radegunde by humble supplicacion
restored a yong sonne from deth to lyfe agayne.

Chow saynt Radegund saued her seruaunt from pe-
rell of perillhyng / whiche brought a parte of the holy
croſſe from the emperour.

Cof dyuerſe myracles in generall / and howe this
abbasse saued diuerſe ſick peple fro Jeopardy of deth

Chowe Radegunde thabbasse cured two ſickewome
from infirmitie / vnto helth and prosperite.

CHow this abbasse healed byuerse sickewomen come
from feuers / and som from vexacion of our godly
enemy.

COf the godly visyon she had afore her infirmitie & of
the noble exhortacio she made to her sisters in her sic-
kenesse and Payne.

CWith what pacience and deuocion lady Radegund
receyued the blessed sacrament and extreme unction as-
fore her departure.

COf the departyng of this holy abbasse / & howe she
appered the same houre to a noble prefect curyng hym
from sickenesse of his throte.

CHowe she cured one of her company from punysshe-
ment offier / and howe she sauad & healed many other
by true oblation made to her with deuocion.

CIn orison made of the blessed Radegunde lady and
abbasse.

CA breue conclusion and end of this poore translacio
mouyng the reders to accept it symple though it be,

Finis.

CThe prologe of the translatour in the
lyfe of mayden Radegunde/ quene
and princesse.

RWhan the feruent heate/ of the somer seaso
Was almost entyd by course of nature
And Phabus entred þ signe of Scorpiõ
Passyng þ equinoctial thå ye may be sure
The day decrees/ þ myght dyd long edure
Colde frosty mornynge/ and euyntydes withall
Began to approche/ a long space continuall.

That season lyueties ben used of duety
Ryght at the solempne feast of all Halomas
By the gentylnesse of England/ and curtesy
To gladdethey/ guestes/ in euery lordes place
And to they/ company to be great solace
To passe the euentide/ after good humanite
In myzthes/ in disportes/ and liberalite

Than I reuolued with due circumstaunce
The gentyll maners/ and discrete behauour
Of seculer people vsyng temperaunce
How they dispense the tyme/ the day/ the houre
Some in great policy for wordly honoure
Some in marchaundise for lucre and wynnynge
And some in chivalry/ great faime opteynyng

Some other gyuen to wanton company
To wordly pleasours/ and singuler affeccyon
Some to distempaunce and vile glotony
And some to Christes/ labour/ and occupacion

S. Radegund.

a.iii.

yet some be disposed to contemplacion
To prayer to study of theyr goodnesse
And some (the moze pitie) to slouth/ and ydelnesse

Nowe lyth that I am lowest of degre
A man of holy churche by true profession
Consydering the condicions of people worldly
(As afore is sayd) in my full entencion
By dygne grace and godly supportacion
As for to write the lyfe historiall
Of Radegunde the princesse quene and montall

After my reason me thyntke more conuenient
To spende wynter nyghtes in suche besynesse
For drede of temptation and causles insolent
Rather than to lose suche tyme in ydelnesse
Whiche to all wyce is tote and maistresse
Envie to vertue/ a stepmother to study
Occasyon of tayne/ and mycle malady.

A secondaty cause/ mouyng me thereto
To write the lyfe of this virgyn glorious
Was the instant desyre/ and peticyon also
Of speciall frendes/ honest and vertuous
Whiche lately reuyzed me full memorious
With songuler request/ and humble instance
This lyf to discrybe/ with due circumstaunce

To whome I graunted/ vnder this condycyon
That of their wisedom/ they wolde excuse me
And take this poore dede/ of no presumption
Nor done for vauntage/ auoyding bayngloze

4
But alonly to content theyz mynde and satisfy
Where they knowe well my insuffisience
My great ignoraunce/ and also negligence

The thyrd cause mouyng moste pryncipally
Is for to extolle/ the glorious name
Of this holy virgyn/ and gracious lady
With honour/reuerence/ and excellent fame
To the comen people/desirynge the same
Whose lyfe hath ben kept scilent many a day
Knownen to fewe persons within this countrey

Therefore I require/ and pray you euerychone
That this litell treatyse shall reed or se
To accept my mynde with your discretion
And it to correct after your charite
Amende the mater/ where is necessite
For syth it is knownen that I am no clarke
Under protestacion/ I procede to Warke

And where I vnworthy/ this treatyse begyn
I humble besike out blessed sauour
His mother also mary the virgyn
To be my helpe/comfort/ and succoure
To we swete Radegunde/ of virgins the floute
Make supplicacion/ unto the trinite
And direct my penne to describe thy stori

¶ Of the progeny of saunt Radegunde and howe she
was taken in batell and maryed to Lothary
a kynge of Fraunce.

S. Radegund.

a. iii.

The pere of our sauour by full computacion
Sypue hundreth fully from the nativite
As dyuers auctours makyn descripcion
Reyned in Fraunce in honour and ryalte
Two noble kynges / Childebert and Lothary
Euer kyng knowing his parre and regyon
To them belonging / by ryght and custome

At the same season / as sayth the history
A noble prince / reyned in Africa
Named in cronicles kyng Berengary
Borne at a citie named Thoerings
Within the sayd kyndome now called Barbarea
Whiche prince Whylom famous in tenowne
Tyll that dame fortune vnfriendly put hym downe.

Whiche forsayd prince kyng Berengarius
Had in succession a noble princesse
A deuout lady / and a virgin glorious
Nominat Radegunde / a gemme of holynesse
A floure of vertu / and a myrrour of mekenesse
Whose gostly gouernaunce enduryng her lyfe
Unto all people may be a perspectyfe

This kyng Berengary by myssfortune in batell
Was piteously subdued / by kynges of Fraunce
His realme conquyed / piteously to tell
Losing his honour / lande / and gouernaunce
And Radegunde taken / suche was her chaunce
By powre remoued / from her land naturall
Amonge strangers to be continuall

Whan the kyng and the realme subdued were
And mayde Radegunde taken for a pray
Than the kynges of Fraunce for her in fete
Entended batell / whiche shulde haue the may
For she was beauteous and pleasant berray
Humble / gentyll / courtese / and mooste fayre truly
yet she by lot fell / vnto kynge Lothary

For if Radegunde had nat delyuered be
Great cruelte / besynesse / and vexacion
Had fortuned among kynges thre
Through great disdeyn / pypde / and ambicyon
For the realme of Fraunce in a tenniall kyndome
Than was deuided cronicles do expresse
As the sequence of saynt Martyn doth reherse

This lady Radegunde / thus taken awaie
And by chaunce delyuered to kyng Lothary
Was brought with worship in to a countrey
Callyd Veromandensis vnto the kynges citie
Nominate Atheras / to be kept in suertie
There to be nourished / and haue refeccion
Doctryne and disciplyne / with hie discrecyon

Ckyng Lothary considering her gentilnesse
Her vertue / pacience / and proued wylisme
Her great humilitie / constaunce / and sobernesse
Dayly encreasyng with augmentacion
Entended to mary spedely and soone
Lady Radegunde / and virgyn setene
To make her his spouses and louely queene

Unto this mariage and feast there was
Made great preparacion/and rialtie
The halles were hanged/with clothes of arras
Rychely embrodered/in ryall Imagery
The. xii. apostelles well set in degré
Martirs/confessours/and vrgyns withall
were they purtered/with crowne victoriall

Ouer the syde tables curiously were wrought
Ancient histories of auctorite
Of patriarches/and prophetes wisely out soughte
Of the olde and newe testament set properly
Histories were paynted of poetrie
Chambers were strawed with floures fragrant
well dect with hangynges/stesshe/fayre/and bernant

This princesse was clad in clothes of golde
In sylkesse/veluettes/and tyssues syne
A coronall was ordeyned richely to be holde
And crownd therwith/as christall byd shyne
Set with ryall stones/the sapher celestyne
The diamont/the diaudeke/the ruby/the topas
The carbuncle/the emerall/the perle they were

Lordes of the lande were redy present
Dukes/ctles/barons/and knyghtes doughty
The comons assembled euer delygent
To gyue attendaunce as was they duety
The day was apoynted/of the matrimony
The chapell crownded with mycle rychesse
The clergy attending at an houre expresse

Kyng Lothary pass'd from his ryall palace
 Wit' many myghty peres and lordes of his lande
 Radegunde hym folowed a prinesse full of grace
 Wit' ladies many one the fear ast coude besounde
 They came to the chapell as we vnderstande
 All thyng was prepared to that solempnite
 Ornamentes and vestures of great ryaltie

The byshop was redy / with his ministers all
 To execute his office / of the sayd mattimony
 The obseruauntes was done with honour ryall
 The masse was songe / with mycle melody
 With belles / and orgons / and solempne minstrelsy
 The sacrament of spousage / was celebrat that day
 With reuerence and worshyp / in theyr best array

From thens they departed / to the kynges palace
 The sayd kyng and quene / the lordes / and clergy
 All thinges wch ill ordred (as afore sayd was)
 To attende in the hall marshalles were redy
 Of meates and drinkes / theyr was great plentie
 Veneson wldfoule mycle aboundinge
 The condites of wyne ranne with great pleasaunce

But for all this ryaltie / and wordly pleasure
 Whiche was prepared / at this solempnite
 The quene Radegunde pass'ng course af nature
 Moste dredfull in hert / was for her virginite
 Desyred our sauour of his endless charite
 As he for vs all suffred better passion
 To preserue her body from all corruption

¶ Of the vertuous lyving of saynt Radegund
vndre spousage/and howe she con-
tinued a pure virgyn

¶ Han the day declyned & come was the nyght
And all people passyd echone to his lodgyng
The hert of Radegunde was litell of myght
yet priuately she went to her chamber wepyng
Made great lamentacion dolefully sighing
Required our lord to helpe of his pytie
To whome she had offred afore her virginite

¶ Mas what tong can playnly expresse
¶ O hert may thynde / the dredfull Jeopardy
This lady Radegunde feared doutlesse
Whan her lord was laid her swete body by
Her soule was rapt/her mynde in an ertasy
Plonged in heuenes/wo and penalite
More leuer to be deed/than lose her chastite

¶ But as scripture sayth/our blessed saviour
Is euer redy in extreme necessite
To helpe his seruauntes both day and houre
Whan they do call / with pure humulite
He sauued saynt Agnes/saynt Lucie/saynt Cecilie
With many other mo/ from all corruption
Byght so he preserued Radegunde that season

¶ For whan Lotharias desired to supple
Naturall pleasure and voluptuous entencion
By diuyn power and by myracle sothlie
His seruent desyre with carnall affeccion

Were clerly extincted for aboue reason
 Suche frayle concupiscence of loue entyze
 Soone quenched as water quencheth the fyre

Other sondry seasons/whan the sayd kyng
 Was moued at wyll/to haue his desidetve
 The quene founde remedy/at her owne likyng
 Somtyme feynyng sickenesse/and infirmitie
 Somtyme nat disposed to suche fragilitie
 Somtyme occupied/in labours diligent
 Other tyme obiectyng/the tyme nat conuenient

Thus by the grace/of her spouse Iesu
 She euer preserued her true chastite
 Seuyng her selfe/to prayer and to vertue
 Lowyng our lord/e of his benignite
 And his mother Mary/floure of virginite
 Whiche of his mercy/and infinite goodnesse
 Hath her preserued/in all distresse

And though she was marayed to kyng Lothary
 A wordly prince/seyng for honoure
 She clerely refusid/suche pompe and bayne gloriy
 And serued her spouse/our sauoure
 Transitory pleasures/woiship and decoure
 Were truly abietted/and all suche felicite
 More humble in wyll/than parmitted dignite

In wordly vanites/she had no pleasure
 To gyue good example/was her hole entent
 Sermons to here/was all her great cure
 Loue and charite in hert were ay fetuent

Her landes and rentes/ gauen by assigment
Were truly tithed/ where was necessite
To captiue prisoners/ and people in pouerte

All rentes/ and richeesse/ that she myght com to
Were distribute to monastries in deuocion
Besykyng the couent to pray for her also
And for her lord/ and all the region
Unto synche places/ as she myght nat come
By personall presence/ for vnaunce of place
Thyder she sende almyg in short tyme and space

This noble quene had a principall mynde
Upon the poore people in great penalite
She wyng werkis of mercy/ accordyng to kynde
Helpyng all wosull wretchesse in miserie
Thynkyng all myspend/ that they had nat truly
Beluyng that Christ in euery poore creature
Lay secret and priue vnder theyr figure

Whan she was richely/ serued at her table
With costly dayentes and delicacy
With myghty wyndes strong and comfortable
Conuenient for her estate and regalite
With suche inetes she nolde content her body
But byd abyeyne/ and toke refaccion
With small portage of her owne decoction.

To punysshe her person/ more straute & sharply
Reuiuyng her sprite to meditacion
She ware the herd here/ next to her body
With precious clothes reclothed ther vpon

Discrete abstinence/ agaynst rebellion
Wysely oppressed/by the helpe of Jesu
Her corps makyng/ apte to prayre and vertue

As Radegunde lay with her prince of right
She askyd lycence of a comyn custome
To depart and rise from bed euery nyght
For naturall necessite/ acordyng to reason
From whome whan she was departed and gone
She went to prayer all nyght folowing
Platte vpon an heer/ on her knes knelyng

So with continuance/all the nyght season
Feruent in soule/to please god almyghty
Tyll her vitall sprete by true deuotion
Were almost confused/ and put in Jeopardy
Thoro we colnesse frost/ and all her body
From sensuall felyng of her wittes syue
Clercly were expulshed/by mynde contemplatiue

Wherfore it was sayd of her lorde and kyng
Of his true subgettes/ and the comons all
That his noble lady/by gostly lyueng
Was nat as quene/ but rather a moniall
The kyng her blamed in termys curall
Reþrouyng her customes/ with great confusyon
Whom she humble suffred without contradiccion.

COf the great deuocion she vsed namely in tyme of
lenton/and of the great pitie she had to
all captiue prisoners.

Wan the tyme of lenton appreched nere
To speke of her penaunce/ is a straute thyng
For at the same tyme/ with conscience cleere
She send to a religious wooman in lyueng
Rominat ~~Ma~~ her fully mynde sheweng
To whome this moniall/ knowyng her entent
Send Radegunde an heer sealed full diligent

Whiche heer this lady (as rehersed is)
With reuerence receyued/ and put next her body
Trusyng in the vesture great comfort and bliss
Pleasant to our lorde/ to her soule remedy
And yet she wolde were clothes richely
Upon the sayd heer in the tyme of lenton
Expillyng faine/ and wordly comumentacion

Upon solempne daves/ and feestes principall
The queene was reuest/ with clothes of golde
With tissewes fyne/ and veluettes at all
And whan the comon people/ yong and olde
Prayded suche garmentes/ with same manyfolde
She bittely abhorted/ suche riall riche clothynge
Sende them to churches/ for preestes in to syng

By fortune if Lothary her lorde were absent
Who wolde than byleue/ her singulcr deuocion
Her prayer/ abstinence/ and her penitent
Her great contricion and humble supplicacion
Euer remembryng our lordes passion
Submitting her selfe as vnto his fete
Washeslyng his woundes/ with teares salt and wete

She refusid glotony / by vertuous temporaunce
Our sauour Jesu was her hole refaccion
Upon bodily feding / gaue litell attendaunce
Dayly prouidynge her soules sustentacion
Great vigilles / penaunce / and holy orison
Restreched her soule / and the body also
No penaunce was tedious for her to do

If any transgressor were Judget to dye
Or any man suffred wrong accusacion
She was so mercyable / and full of pitie
For them to the kyng / she made intercession
Knieling full mekely / desyring peticyon
And to his counsell with prayer continuall
Tyll she had pardon / and grace for them all

All the kynges court / example myght take
To vse humilitie / and great gentylnesse
At lady Radegunde / and synne to forlase
For why she was called / of more and of lesse
Rather a minister / than to be a maistresse
Deligent to serue / euery tyme and season
More / as well / as ryche with great deuocion

Another man ne childe / dwellyng in the palace
Was discontent / at this swete lady
She had suche wyldone / and singuler grace
Transcendyng other ladyes / of memory
Dukes / erles / and barons / and all theyr progeny
Example may take / at this quene tyall
To encrease in mekenesse / and vertuous morall

S. Radegund.

b.i.

By her great prudence/and exortacion
The kyng was moued/to grace and pitie
Merciable to the pore/in all his region
Hauyng compassion/lyberall/and fre
To execute Justice prompte with mercie
A good benefactour/to places religyous
By the instant mocion/of his quene vertuous.

Chowe quene Radegunde shewed a great
myracle deliucryng prisoners
out of captiuite.

This noble quene euery solempne day
Of custome wolde ryse erly as the lyght
And go to her chapell/secretly to pray
Seruyng our sauour/with all her hert and myght
Ensuyng mary Magdalayne in mynde full ryght
To mattens/and to masse/after she wolde gone
And all day folowyng vse meditacion

Thus by contynuance/in grace and goodness
In prayer/abstinence/vigils/and chastite:
This lady Radegunde/quene and princesse
Replete with mckenesse/vertue and charyte
Shewed dyuerse myracles/within the countre
The fyrt myracle/was done in the palace
(As saythe the history)by deuyne grace

As Radegunde passed the palace by a prison
where many prisoners were fettered in durances
For her palyne/solace/and consolacion
With lordes knyghtes and other seruauntes

10.
Whan the prisoners percepued / bcyngē in penaunce
That it was the quene / theyz souerayne lady
With loude voyce / they began on her to call and cry

O noble princesse / O kynge's daughter deere
O lady of grace / and quene imperiall
Succoure vs thy seruantes whiche lye bounde here
Extende thy charite / vpon vs wretches all
Delyuer vs from deth / sauie from paynes thrall
Be mercyfull to vs / hartfully we the pray
And we wyll amende our lyues / after this day

This lady heryng / suche great lamentacion
Inwardly was moued to mercy and pitie
Required to knowe / with tender compasyon
What people cryed on her so piteously
The seruantes answered agayne (verite)
Saying that they were beggers at the gate
Comon to haue almes of so great estate

Also the Jayler agayne all conscience
Rebuked his prisoners vnpiteously
Causyd them be styl / and kepe scilence
Manasing them to beate / punishe / and mortyfy:
Conciled the truethe / from his souerayne lady
Thus the sayd prisoners / put to more payne
Had payne vpon payne / without mercy cettayne

But the next nyght folowyng / by myracle ryght
The fetters / the bondes / of the prisoners all
Sodenly were broken / and losed in theyz syght
And they were delyuered from paynes thrall

S. Radegund,

b.ii.

They passyng from prison / the gates downe dyd fall
They came the sayd nyght to Radegunde theyz lady
Thankyng her echone / for her grace and mercy

They knelyd on kne / for gladnesse wepyng
Sayeng O souerayne lady / and maistresse
Honour be to the / grace and long lyueng
Whiche hath delyucred vs from distresse
Personally this nyght / or els one in thy lykenesse
Nowe blessed Iesu / redemptour of vs all
Rewarde you this dede in the blysse eternall

Chowre quene Radegund desyred to be religyous /
of a myracle shew'd / at her departyng
by the way goyng

W Hiche myracle knownen this blessed lady
Made instant desyre / and huble supplicacion
To her husband and lord kyng Lothary
That she myght haue lycense to go to religyon
Whose meke request / and singuler petition
At last was graunted / with disfulte
Of the sayd kyng / to be at her lyberte

She loued our lord / in hert / worde / and dede
Of this fre graunt / and good expedicyon
She send to saynt Inedard byshop in good sped
Desyring hym for charite / and of his deuocyon
For to receyue her / in to holy religion
The palce was apoynted / the tyme secretly
Of her comyng to Pictauis religious to be

In the meane whyle Radegund gaue to the poore
Moche ryall rychesse / and vestures liberally
Reseruynge to her person / and her vse no more
Than she dayly vsed / for honour necessary
So alone proseded / vnto the monastery
From the kynges court / priuely in the nyght
Unknowen to eche creature / saue to þ kyng of myght

11.

Upon thc other day / where the kyng perceyued
The sodayne departure of his lady susterayne
He bitterly wayled / that he was dysceued
Sende dyuers messangers / with a sure capitayne
Fyrst to enquire / and bringe her agayne
Supposyng to haue her / in short tyme and space
After she approched / to the religiouse place

But the holy goost / confortour of all care
Defendyd Radegunde / at this extremite
For as she passyd / the sayre feldes all bare
She sayd to an hus bande / besy in hus bandry
People wyll folowe after / for to persue me
From whiche company I declyne certayne
Prayeng the consyle / my presens / and it layne

It behoueth the nat / from the trueth to varray
Say that thou se me come this same way
The season / day / and tyme / remyng full hastely
Thou dyd so we this corne affirmyng it varray
And thus excuse me / herifullly I the pray
She passyd this plowman / in to a secrete place
For drede duryng daryng / trustyng our lordes grace

b. iii.

Incontinently the corne newlly cast in grounde
Began for to blade and bere in every place
To eare and to type (her enemyes to confounde)
All redy to be shorne / within an houre space
The otes began to shede / the husbande besy was
And made great prouisio with sicle & lythe that morn
To cut downe the otes / in sawyng of the corne

After the sayd virgyn / messangeris made great haste
Shortly to to supple theyz lordes commaundement
They founde the husbande repyng corne full fast
Who me they required / to shewe on payne of prisōmet
If any sayre lady / or mayde by hym went
To tell whan / and whyther / and whiche way þ she is
Auoydying great displeasure / shewyng nat amys

Worshipfull masters / the husbande than can say
Suche a sayre lady / we se this way gone
Rennynge fast and spedely the same selfe day
That we cast this corne in the erth alone
Sweryng to them devely for more affirmacion
The courteours / beleued this honest man certayne
And heuely retourned to the kyng agayne

Chow Radegund was made religiouse / & after elect
abbasse of Pictauis / & howe by grace she was pre-
serued from daunger of her husbande þ kyng.

Whan wyght aproched / this forsayd sayre lady
Prively departyd to the place of Pictauens
Thankyng our lord / and his mother Mary
Of her expedicion / with micle reuerence

17.
The abbasse of the place gladed of her presence
So dyd the couent / and the company all
Of this noble quene / to be conuentuall

Mekely she made singuler petition
To be religious blyng lyfe monastical
Thabbasse graunted / and the couent echone
Receyued her gladly / and made her a moniall
Where fyrt she layde a syde her purpull and pall
All riche vestures / of golde / and tissewes fyne
Her crowne / and coronall / set with stones celestyne

She was reclothed / with religious vesture
The mantell of melenesse / the baile of blacke colour
The wypull of wayling / of humble gesture
With other many vestures / of vertue that same hour
Thus for the loue of our sauour
All wordly pleasures bayne / and transitore
She hath refusyd / obedient to be

Whan the yere passed of her probacion
She truly professyd the essentials the
Made a solempne bove afore the congregacyon
Obedience to kepe also pure chastite
Enduryng her lyfe / with wilfull pouerte
She receyued the tyng / of heuenly spousage
Was marayed to Iesu enduryng this pylgrymage

And as myne auctour playnly doth expresse
The venerable Antonius / in his historie
This lady Radegund / of her great goodnesse
Bylded afore tyme the sayd monaster

By the helpe of her husbande kyng Lothary
Where after she was elect lady and abbasse
By helpe of saynt Medarde a man of great grace

Whan she was abbasse she toke to her company
A nomber of virgyns in hys perfecyon
To whome she gaue the example dayly
Of pure humlyte / and perfyt deuocyon
Of vertuous lyueng / and contemplacion
Perfourmyng in her persone / for goostly mede
All thyng commaunded / to her systers in dede

But the mortall enemy / of all mankynde
Consideryng in her / such grace and vertue
By malycy / and enuy / forcast in his mynde
By some subtylte / this mayd to subdue
He tempted her husbande / a prince full of vertue
By power / and slouth to take his wyfe agayne
Out of religion / the more pyte certayne

This sayd kyng Lothary / in conscience blynde
Came with his company / to the citie of Turon
Under craft / and polefy prepensyd in mynde
With the notable prince / Sygibert her son
Dyssemblyng pylgrymage / and goostly entencion
Approchynge Pectauis / the rather that he myght
Take from religyon / his wyfe that same nyght

Whan Radegunde / hard tell his subtell polisy
Hewe he was paruerred as man without grace
She wept and wayled / in soule tenderly
For sorowe of her husbande / whiche somtyme was

13
In her hert no confort / was founde noz solace
For dzede of deceipte / and ymagined treason
Prayeng to our lord / for helpe that same season

She made secret letters / and send her entent
Closed and sealed / unto saynt Germaine
Bysshop of Parise / whiche than was present
With kyng Lothare / makynge her complaunt
Moufully lamenting / expreſſed in dede playne
Desiryng the bysshop / with humble suppycation
To conuert the kyng / from his wrong opynion

Whan saynt Germaine these letters had reed
He prostrat hymſelſe to the fete of the kyng
Afore saynt Martyns toimbe prayeng hym in dede
By the order of charite / many salt teates weyng
And for the loue of god / to conſerne his askyng
That he no further / wolde proceſe in way
Noz come to Pectauis / for dzede of beth that day

The kyng conſideryng / in soule his great trespace
With bytternesse of hert / remembryng his peticion
Shulde come of Radegund / by ſinguler grace
With contrit hert and mynde / made playne confeſſion
Excusing his defaute / by euyll ſuggeſtion
Proſtrat his perſon unto saynt Germaines fete
Desiryng indulgence / with salt teates and weete

Reputyng his preſence / ſymply and unworthy
For to call agayne his wyfe / from religion
Whiche is the ſpouse / of our lord almighty
And vnder his licence entred problyon

S. Radegunde.

C.1.

Required the bysshop spedely to gone
To lady Radegunde absoluued for to be
Lest punyfement fell on hym/soone and hastle

Whiche thyng the bysshop was glad for to do
Came to Pectauis/bnto her oratorie
And kneled at her sete/desirynge her also
To forgyue the kyng/his entent and miserie
Whiche thyng she dyd in hert/and worde gladly
Thankyng our lord/that she was at lybette
To serue hym day & nyght/delyuered from captiuite.

COf the fetuent deuocyon of saynt Radegunde and
of the great penaunce and charitable
warkes she vsed in religion.

What hert may thynke or tong is sufficient
To expresse the vertuous of this montall
In deuout orison/in vigils conuenient
In dylcret abstinence/in vestures small
Example gpyeng bnto her systers all
To the comon people/howe they in great vertu
Shulde dayly encrease/pleasyng our lord Ihesu

This abbaſe vsed fulde/to eate whyte bredc
But of rye or berly/kept secretly
That no man perceyued/howe that she fedde
Her drinke was water or litell better dayly
From her profession by saynt Medarde truly
Her repast was potage/and herbis for to eate
Noþer fyllye/fleshe/egges/stutes / ne mylke meate

¶ So after the usage / and rite of saynt Geffrayne
She had a litell mylne in her secret cell alon
In whiche all the lenton / she laboured cettayne
As wolde well suffyce for .iii. dayes refecyon
A maruell howe she dyd satysfy euery person
Where nothyng wanted / that was necessary
The more that was gyuen / euer the more plenty

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Whan obseruantes were done / eche saturday at nyght
She toke a lvnern cloth cloused about her body
And wasshed the heedes of all poore folkes aight
Rubbyng all them soris / sekeness / and malady
She arded and succoured / and dyd them remedy
After combyd them / or they pastyd the place
Nothyng abhorzing suche mekenes in her was

To all poore creatures / the prouince round about
She euer ministred / the warkes of pittie
Gowing to them clothynge / of almes without dout
Bothe lvnern and wollrn / sytting for theyr degré
Whan they were greued / with an infynyte
She toke theyr vestures / and wasshed them echone
With her owne handes / after dyd them vpon

She send for poore folke / in her hall to dyne
Afore the ryche estatys / for all theyr clothynge tyall
She serued the sayd poore / after Christis doctryne
First water to theyr handes / with a to well to them all
To persons impotent / she ministred speciall
Masshyng theyr mouthes / theyr handes louingly
Suche was her custome / she was so full of pittie

S. Radegunde.

c.ii.

Whan all the seruycce / on the table was set
She wolde stande fastyng / to make them good cheare
And deuyde theyr hitayls / as she myght get
She wryng them good counsell theyr soulis to lere
All blynde / halte / and lame / to her were full dere
Whome with her handes / she fed with a spone
After gave them drinke / with Christes benesone

Women full of lepre and vyle corruption
In armes she wolde embrase / and kyss swetely
And gaue to them cloþing / and refaccion
That many of them / were healed therby
Wherfore it was sayd / O thou swete lady
Who shall the kyss / or aproche the nere
Which kysses / such lepus most vyle in dere.

¶ Of the great perfeccion / and penaunce that lady
Radegunde vſed in the tyme
of lent.

 His noble Radegunde / & venerable abbasse
All the tyme of lent after her profession
Whan she solitary in her cell set was
She absteyned from breed / & colly reſectiō
using herbis / potage / made of malous alone
Without oyle / and salt / except bpon the sonday
She toke b̄ede alon / a lytell for that day

She absteyned so soore / from drinkyng of water
The. xl. dayes of lent / with such great penury
That she myght nat sing nor say with boyce cleere
The seruice of god / nor orison priuately

She vsed the rough heer / next her tender body
Watching all the nyght / vsyng meditacion
Her bed was dry ashes / and an heer layed vpon

15

Her clothynge was so poore / symple and small
She had nat a sleue / vpon her armes to do
But of her holes / she made twayne at all
To couer her from colde / from frost / and wynters wo
Thus she dyd pumpishe / her povre body so
That she assembled a setuaunt for to be
Rather than an abbasse of great auctorite

Also whan her sisters all in bed were layed
This lady Radegunde / wolde euery nyght
Wype clene theyz shoues lyke a poore mayde
And with soft oyntment anoyent them full right
Make all thynge redy / agayne the day light
Of all vile labours / that a mong them there was
She wolde fyrt serue moost subget in the place

Wherfore as her cours / caine wekely about
She swenped all places / of the monastery
All great vile burthens / she bare them out
From stretes and corners / fulsom for to se
Secret purgacions horrible to the eye
She nothyng dismayned nor was dismayde
On her childers to cary (in stroy as is sayd)

She humbled her selfe as leste in degré
Bearyng wod to the fyre / in her armes twayne
Setuyng her sisters veryd with infirmyte
Preparynge sustentacion / meate and dynke certayne

S. Radegunde,

c. iii.

Wasshyng theyz syssamy / and sedyng thei n playne
Sundry tynes kyssyng them with great humilyte
Therby recoueryng dyuers from penalite

Unto all people / she shewed good lyberalite
Truly fulfyllyng her holy professyon
Theyz fete and handes / wasshyng at the fyfth entre
Of straungers to the place / desyryng them of pardon
Where was no offence / but all thyng well don
Ex ample gryueng / of inekenesse and charyte
Unto all lades within christente.

COf the great affliction / & hard punysshement that þ
lady Radegunde vied aboue the cours of nature
in the sayd tyme of lent.

RHis noble prynesse mayden Radegunde
al comly quene / a moniall / an abbasse
al floure of vertue / a rose moost rubicunde
Of our lord was elect / & circumfylled with
To be ruler and lady / of a religyous place (grace
Whose strayte herd penaunce / fame and holynesse
We can nat discrybe nor them expresse

This blesyd abbasse / all the tyme of lenton
Suffred bytter penaunce / & maruelous punysshement
Usyng certayne bandes of yren in custome
Fast knyt to her netke / and armes in chastment
Also. iii. yren chenes / a bout her body went
Full straytely bounde / the holy fast enduryng
To punyssge more pytiously her fleshe freatyng

16
That whan fortie dayes of lent were past
And the mayde mynded to take them away
The sayd bandes and chenes remayned so fast
Hetyng her body that she ne myght betray
Without great violence remoue them that day
That blode yssued downe fro the necke to the fete
In dyuerse parties of her body full wete

She caused to be wrought for greater penalty
A plate of coper the sygne of the crosse hauyng
Whiche layed in the fyre in her cell solitary
She toke the sayd plate as it was hote brennyng
And layde to her fleshe as a martyre sufferyng
Punysshynge her corps to bryng it in subiection
Obedient to the soule by payne and deuocion

This abbasse addyd newe payne vpon payne
In punysshynge her person more grenaously
For why all the lent (sayth the story playne)
Natwithstandyng her vigils and abstinence openly
She exercysed newe penaunce and paynes secretly
The heer set with brystels and yet she vsed more
A chakyngdische of coles to be set her aforde

Thus whan she was set solitary in her cell
Her body quakyng and her membris all
Dredyng gteuous paynes maruelous to tell
Her soule was armed to suffre payne temporall
She broyled her body with the sayd fyre materiall
To anymat and refresche the soule in treason
To stand as a martyre where was no persecucion

S. Radegundc.

c. llii.

Hoote brennyng brasse / she layde to her sydes
Her tender fleshe trembyng / þ skynne was consumed
The body was cobust / with many greuous wondes
The fleshe from the bones / in sundre partys deuyded
The blode semydecot to the erthe distylled
She wryng the vertite / of the passyon certayne
Wher scilence was kept / for all the greuous payne

Thus a fragill femynyn / for the loue of Ihesu
Paciently suffred greuous punysshment
Wryng contynually / deuocyon and vertue
Prayet / almisdedes / and charitable fetuent
Thoro we which by grace / there folowed incontinent
Myracles (for whi) all bayne pleasures transitory
Radegunde refused / myndyng moost out messy.

Chow this holy abbasse wryng meditacyon refours
med her syster negligyent / with a lytell
exortacion folowyng.

This lady never spake / agayne good conscience
She never defamed / nor vsed detraction
Agayne vertite / she never bare euidence
She never dissimuled / nor vsed adulacion
Hastynes / ne yre / debate / nor derysyon
She prayed for her enemyes / to amende by grace
Mouyng her susters / to the same in the place

Great grauite goodnessse / and humilyte
True loue to god / in her hert was fetuent
Pacience in aduersyte / faythe / hoope / and charyte

Justyce attemperaunce / fortitude were lent
With prudence benignite euer resplendent
Costely example / with good exortacion
Has resydence in Radegunde / and holy religyon

17.

Her example was better / than a commaundement
Unto her subgettes / within the monastery
Her doctryne was profitable / and expedyent
By her fact and dede / she gaue exemplacy
Unto her subgettes / and all the famyle
Her precepte and dede / agreed bothe in one
As Christ gaue example / for our saluacion

Also afore mydnyght moost commenly she sayd
All David psaulter / long before mattence
After whan her sisters / in bedde were layed
She stylly contynued / prayeng in presence
Of the blessed sacramentes / departyd nat thence
Tyll the day lyght / knelyng in deuotion
With wepyng teares / and meke medytacyon

That vnder lycence / and reformatyon
Of all them that this lytell werke shall se
We purpose to reherise / with deuyne proteccyon
Parte of her myracles / folowyng the story
Requiring all reders / of theyr pure charite
To excuse my ignorant boldnesse also
And accept myne entent symply tho it be
Quia bona voluntas / reputetur p^{ro} facto

This gracuous Radegunde / ceasyd day nor nyght
Principally to prayse our lord / with supplicacyon

Her mynde her / mouth / with all her gosly myght
Syngulerly was set her spouse Ihesu vpon
Is she was feruent / in her contemplacyon
A moniatt Codigunde by a posterne preuarly
Pallyd without lycence / out of the monasteri

(Whiche thynge knowen) thabbasse followed shortly
And wolde have called her by name Madegunda
In stede of whiche name / she sayd veraly
Come agayne deu' stice (alleluya a alleluya)
As the mynde thought / so spake Madegunda
Ryght so it forwuned / after many a seadur
Her soule was so feruent / vpon meditacion

Swete worthy princesse / borne of great rialte
Duchesses / countesses / ladies eret / thone
Folowyng yowr appetit / and sensualite
In woldes / worship / and yayne / delitacion
Diversite of garnitures made of theyz newe facyon
With delitar davntes repastryng eueri day
The body to conserue / in lust and likyng ay

Beholde and considre with your interiour eye
This humble abbasse / lady and moniatt
Hewe she refusid all wordly dignite
Rychesse / reuerence / and horouer imperiall
Wayne / vestutes / gaumentes / possessyons withall
Entred religion / with great humulite
Truly obseyuyng / the essencials thre

Also for sufferyng / in this present lyfe
A lytell whyle payne / for loue of our sauour

13.
Usyng prayet penaunce/and life contemplatyfe
Nowe she is exalted/in heuenly honout
Whose glory shall euer encrease/more and more
Wherfore noble ladies/example ye may take
At this holy quene/all vice to foriske

¶ blessyd Radegunde ¶ worthy princesse
Lady and quene/virgyn/and moniall
¶ vertuous abbasse/and suffetayne maistres
Nowe triumphant/in the see celestiall
We pray the mekely/pray for vs all
That after this lyfe/and mortall passage
We may come to blis/and eterne hetytage.

CHowe blesseyd Radegunde delyuered a woman
possessyd with a synde/ from daunger and
payne/to heith and prosperite.

Tcertayne woman dwelled by the monastery
whiche was possessyd/with a spirite infernall
By long contynuance enduring misery
Sore vexed/and greued/with paynes thrall
Tearing with violence/as a beest brutall
Man/woman/and childe/with great ctuelte
In a hiduous rage/ alas the more pite

Thus she possessyd suffered mycle Payne
The mynde sore moued/ alienat from reason
The profet of her soule /forgetyng certayne
To charitable werkes/had no entencion
frewyll was tollyd so was deuocion

She had no power to say nor do truly
But as the sayd fende put in her memory

She was strayte bounde / bothe fote and hande
For dreme of myschefe / and wickydnesse
Her frendes dwellyng within the lande
Were woful in hert / no meruell doutlesse
Considering theyz kynswoman / in suche distresse
With wepyng waylyng / they came mekely
Besykyng mayde Radegunde / for helpe and remedie

O cumly creature / and kynge's daughter dere
O vertuous lady / moniall and abbasse
We call to the knelyng afore the here
Haue pyte and compassyon / in this erstreme case
Be thou our succour / comfort and solace
Helpe this wofull wreche / humble we the pray
By thy prayet and myght as thou well may

Unto whose prayet peticyon and desyre
Saint Radegunde / was moued to compassyon
Commaundyng them all / with loue entyre
To bryng the sayd woman / and wofull person
Unto her presence / hastely and soone
Her frendes were glad / and made good chere
Joyfull to fulfull the commaundement in fere

Whan they aproched / to this wofull pacient
Redy to conuey her / to the holy place
The sayd wickyd spoyte / moued her entent
Guer to the contrary / by power and manace
She rayled / and raged / and spyt in theyz face

At the last by powre / wysdome and myght
This woman was brought / before this lady bygght

On whom she had compassion / and pety
And anone commaunded / in presence of them all
That wycked sprite / and mortall enemy
To cease of his greuaunce / and paynes thall
And shortly to the grounde / before her to fall
Also to departe this sayd woman fro
Neuer more to vex her with Payne nor wo

None the sprite obeyed / the commaundement
Myght no lenget tary / day nor yet houre
Immedately departed / from the feble pacient
With an hydeous cry full of great doloure
The woman rose vp out of her langour
And knelled bowne / thanking god almyght
And blessed Radegunde of this myracle tygght.

Chewe a ratte was slayne without hande appo
chyng to hurt the vertuous labour
of saynt Radegund.

 His abbasse used somtyne meditacion
Somtyne prayet / vigils / and abstinence
Whylom in labours / & wordly occupacion
The tyme to dused / in vertuous excellēce
And as my auctour gyueth intellygence
This lady had wrought / with great besynesse
A clew of yarne in aymyding ydelnesse

Whiche clew Radegunde hange forthe in the son

At her chamber windes to take ayre and dry
And anone theyz came a myghty great racion
Avrochyn the yarne to gnathe it / and destry
But as soone as she touched the clewe certenly
In the synt moxell she fel to grounde dead
Without mannes hand (in shory as is red)

Chōwe saynt Radegunde by praver reuined a law
tell tre to berge and bryng forthe leaues
without any rote.

Ris benetabla brygyn commaunded alſo
Her seruauit to remoue a great laurell tre
Fetir from the vlace where it dyd gro
To set it securly within the monastere
Byght afor her cell to comfort the company
Whiche laurell tre / by the rote cut a way
Was brought / and transplanted into a garden gay

The lond laurell tre without rote whiche was
Began soone to fade / to worder / and to dry
The leaues fell a doyne of pleasure / and solace
Nature in it decived / and no meruell securly
But whan the brygyn percryued it truly
She supposid and imputed all to her person
Cause of negligence / or want of deuotion

Than Radegunde began mekely for to pray
That the lond laurell myght reuined be
And anone by myracle / the same selfe day
The tre newly brygened / plisaunt for to se

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And brought for the leauers benant in suauite
With stell he sayre braunches/ couering the grounde
The tre had a newe rote/as it was tried and founde.

Chowe saynt Radegunde by humble intercession
restored a yong Brunne from dethe
to lyfe agayne.

Rother season/ when this holy abbaſſe
Was in her cell blyng imeditacion
She herd a great wepyng / & crieng alas
Among the seruauntes / & congregacion
The cause was this by playne demonstra
A vertuous syster / a yong moniall (cyon)
That tyme departed from this lyfe mortall

Radegunde by roſe full spedely
To comfort the company / with compaſſyon
Desirynge the seruauntes / to bryng the deed body
Secretly to her cell / and solitary mansion
After ſhe commaunded them / all and one
Without any taþyng to depart theyþ way
Unto theyþ belynesse / and for the ſoule to pray

Whan all thyng was redy for the buriall
In mean tyme Radegund prayed our ſaviour
By ſpace of . vii. houres for this yong moniall
Unto the body the ſprite for to reſtore
Whose prayer endyd the ſoule that ſame houre
Reuerced to the corps / reþored to lyfe agayne
Cured from all ſekenes / vexacion / and payne.

Howde saynt Radegunde sauied her seruaentes from
paryll of perisslyng which brought a parte
of the holy crosse to Pectauis.

His vertuous abbatte / send to the empereour
Of Constantynople for a porcion
Of the holy crosse / on whome our sauour
For vs suffred deth / and payed our rausom
The messangers opteyned they; meke petition
Receyued a litell part of the crosse certayne
From thens departyb/ to they; lady agayne

And as they passed / saylyng on the see
Sodenly rose vp wyndes moste hideous
The ayre for darkened by crast of our enemy
Great stormes aproched myghty / and meruelous
The tempest encreasyd / euer more greuous
The maryners were besy in eche part to attende
And laboured full fast they; lyues to amende

The stormes and tempestis / continued truly
Fortie dayes and fortie nyghtes / withouten ceasyng
The maryners were mased mated / and wety
The ship was cuet in parell of perisslyng
So whan the messangers knewe no other thyng
But deth approchyng of they; lyues desperate
They called on Radegund / & sayd with mynde eleuate

O louely lady and blessed abbatte
O holy virgyn / and kynges doughter dere
O vertuous moniall replete with great grace
Helpe nowe thy seruaentes from paryll and dangere

Defende vs from deth/which aprocheth nece
Ceasse these great sees O swete maistres
Spede vs in our Jorney/therowe thy goodnes

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Suffre neuct the enemy of all mankynde
By malycy and enuy/to drenche vs all
Also swete lady/call to thy mynde
That we haue nowe brought/a relique speciall
And don well our message/by grace supetnall
Therefore madame/in this necessite
Pray for vs all/to the blesyd trinchte

Ryght shortly anperyd/in all theyr syght
A whyte doufe fleng/the shd all about
The tempest ceasyd/by myracle right
The wyndes were layde/withyn and without
The see was quiet/withouten dout
The marchandes/the matyners/with boyce Jocunde
Magnyfied our maker/and mayden Radegunde

The messangers came whome/all in prosperyte
And brought with them/the relique/of reuerence
Whiche solemnly was set/in the monastery
With honour/worshyp/and myracle diligencie
And whan it caine to open syght and vresence
Myracles were shewed/by it euery day
Unto the people/of the sayd countrey.

COf dyuers myracles in generall/and how this
abbasse sauad dyuers leke persons from
Jeopardy of deth.

S. Radegunde.

D. i.

What memory or reason is sufficient
To remembre the myracles of this lady
What tong can expresse or pen is conuenient
Playnly to describe all the noble story
It were a plesaunt werke for the monde of Bury
For Chaucer or Skelton fachers of eloquens
Or for religious Barkeley to shewe theyr diligens

yet vnder licence speke we in generall
Part of the myracles of this virgyn bright
Where a sick man in slepe by monicion speciall
Receyued of Radegunde a candell lyght
Soon after by her grace confort and myght
He was well cured from all infyrmite
Restored to helth and to prosperite

Also a nother man feble and impotent
Endured such sickenesse and debylite
That by the space of x. dayes consequent
He toke no sustenaunce meate nor drynke truly
To whome this mayden (of her great charite)
Came for to blynt and the patient amone
Cured from sickenesse receyued refection.

Chow Radegunde thabbasse cured. ii. sycke wemen
from sickenesse and in syrmite vnto helth
and prosperite.

BRoble gentillwoman Bella nominat
Wyfe vnto Gylbald of the realme of Fraunce
With sundry sickenesse and blyndnesse cruciat
Long tyme enduryng such wofull penaunce

Was brought to Radegunde/for helpe of her greuans
Her stendes wofull pensyue in mynde
Desyred this virgyn/for to helpe the blynde

22.

This abbasse replete/with grace and pittie
Signed this woman/bnto our sauyour
With the signe of the crosse/for helpe and remedie
Makynge intercession/for her that houte
The sicke was delyuertd/from dayne and langoure
Cured from blyndnes/had her sight agayne
She thankyd our lord/and Radegunde certayne

Also a nother woman/was cured from payne
By merit of this mayde/and singuler supplicacion
Hauyng a gret byle/bw twene her shulders twayne
Of long continuance/full of corruption
for the wofull woman/she made intercession
Unto our sauyour/and kyng of mercy
To sende her helth/helpe and remedie

And whan the sayd orison endyd was
This swolyn bonche horrible to nature
Dyd braste a sundre/with the skyn in that place
A worme yssued out of a gret stature
Whiche was destroyed afore them full sure
The pacient was healed/from payne in sight
By grace aboue kynd/and myracle right.

How this abbasse healed dyuersle sickle women som
from feuers/and some from vexacion
of our gostly enemy.

S. Radegunde.

D. II.



Certayne deudut religious moniall
Was vered all þ day with great colnesse
And in the nyght tyme / with hete ouer all
As a feruent feuer / of wo & paynfulnesse
That she myght nat serue / our lord god
Another nyght nor day / for sore veracion (doutlesse
Whiche was to her soule / a dowlble tribulacion

This blesyd mayden / replete with grace certayne
Commaunded warme water / to be had in hys
Which water she touched / with her handes twayne
Gaue it to her suster / the Payne to mortysy
So whan she touched / the sayd sycke body
The moniall receyued helth and prosperite
Cured from all qualites / of liche contrarie

Another woman long had in possessyon
Of a wickyd sprite prostrat / in the pauement
Was brought to this mayde for preseruacion
On whome she had pyte / and prayde full delygent
Our lord to delvuer the spyrite from the pacient
She blesyd this woman / and the deuell right sure
Departyd shortly / by the secretis of nature

A certayne mayden dwelldong in Fraunce
Rominat Roda was vered day and nyght
With the colde feuers / and paynefull greate
Whiche mikelv was misured / to this lady bryght
By whose humble orison all Payne ceasyd right
The feuers were fled / helth aproched neare
Or the candell was endyd / sayth the stury clere

A religyous abbasse / manassyd full soore
 Blessyd Radegunde excommunicat to be
 Except she wolde heele / and saue from langore
 A woman possesyd / with a spryrite painefullly
 By grace so it fortuned / that within dayes thre
 Our olde aduersary / departyd her fro
 The woman was deluyerd / from payne & gostly wo.

COf the gostly visyon she had afore her infyrmite &
 of the noble exortacion she made to her
 systers in het lykenes & payne.

Inne we to the gloriouſe passage / of this abbasse
 Passe we with gladnesse / and felicite
 Whiche in her tyme / was a floute of grace
 An example of vertue / and benvygnite
 A myſtour of mekenes / and pure chastite
 A vertuous gouernour / of her congregacion
 To bryng them to glori / and heuently mansyon

Suche grace she obtayned / of our sauycour
 That afore her passage / a hole yere full right
 Our lord seide his angell / with mycle honour
 To be her comfort / helpe day and nyght
 The angell aperyd / to this lady bryght
 In fourme of a yong man / moost faire to be tolde
 Whiche gladdyd het soule / and mynde manyfolde

The angell shewed Radegunde in vision
 A gloriouſe place / in the celeſtyall ſee
 Prepared for her / to haue ſcuencion
 Where ioy is infinite / and endles glori

Rehetsyng these wordes/with great Iocundite
O glorioius abbass:/quene and moniall
Our lord to the sendyng/gretyng speciall

She wyng howe /for thy vertu and mckenesse
Thy vigils/fastynges/and deuocion
Thy weynges/waylinges/and tendernesse
Thy bretter penaunce/and sharpe affliction
Thou shalt haue merite/and glorification
And in my diadem thou shalt sure be
A precious gēme/rsplendent with beaute

Swete vrgyn to the I playnly expresse
To Iesu thy spouse/thou shalt come hastely
From wordly vexacion/payne and besenesse
To abyde and endure/in ior perpetually
In hiche singuler confort/and bisyon gostly
Secretly she shewed/bnto systers swayne
Vertuous lyuyng/suche grace to optayne

Sone after this sayd gostly revelacion
Sickenes approached her and infirmitie
The messenger of deth/and wordly seperacion
Dayly increasyd with wo and penalyte
Her body was brought to suche debilyte
That she sore dred her lyfe euery day
The panges and passions doubled alway

As she endured suche langore and sickenes
She send for her systers/and all the couent
Cretyng them to vertu and goodnessse
Principally to kepe our lordes commaundment

With godly perfection / and be euer pacient
Use mekenesse in hert / and true charite
With loue vnto god / from the herte

24

He sayd dere sisters / I pray you everychone
Dayly to obserue the essentials thre
Of saynt Benettes rule / your holy religion
Hartfyt obedience / and wylfull pouerite
With the flourre of cleanness and pure chastite
Kepe your docttines / and customes spirituall
With godly obseruauntes / and ceremonies all

Honour and loue our lordre aboue all thyng
Occupy the tyme in meditacion
In deuout prayer and discrete fastyng
In vigils penaunce / and contemplacion
Call vnto mynde your straute profession
Obserue the order ye be professyd vnto
Reineinbre this lesson / what so euer ye do

Also my counsell is / that ye shalbe content
With the visitacion of god all myghty
Whethet he send you pleasure or penaunce
Quietnes vexacion helth or infirmitie
For this ye knowe / by his auctorite
The childe whome the father loueth most dere
He doth most penaunce he tendertly in fete.

CWith what pacience and deuocion lady Radegund
receyued þ blessed sacrament & extreme unction
afore her departurc

Sterward she askyd the holy communion
With myne reverence / and humilitie
To comfort the soule agayne temptation
At the sharpe passage / of this mortalyte
Whene preistes / and clarkes / were all ready
Theyre offyce to supple right conuenient
And brought with them / the blesyd sacrament

At whose communing / this reverent Radegunde
With gostly comfort humbled her body
Haveng to the sacrament / with hert iocunde
Welcume my maker / god sonne almighty
Welcom my redemer / and kyng of glori
Welcom my ioy / comfort and solace
My trust / my treasure / in euery place

As the church teachith / I believe sydfastly
That thou descended from bis eternall
And was incarnat in mayden Mary
Suffred passyon / and deth moost thrall
Man soule to redeme / from payne infernall
And that thou institute / thy blesyd body
In furme of breadde to vs sacramentaly

Thus with great weyng / and fervent deuocion
In true fayth / hope / and charite
Radegunde receyued the holy communion
To preserue the soule from ieopardy
With all obseruance / and suffrage gostly
After all this she askyd extreme unction
For spirituall comfort / and saluacyon

25.
And as she lay in such extreme
Sufferyng great paine abyding the houre
She be toke her soule vnto the custodie
Of Ihesu her spouse our blesyd sauycour
Also to visyt her they came with great honoure
Many sad citelyns wyddowes virgyns pure
Lamentynge and wepyng for her departure

They held vp theyz handes toward heuen on hys
Pteously cryeng made great lamentacion
Sayeng O blesyd lord god almyghty
Why sufferts thou this mayde departe from vs alon
Fatherleschederie without consolacion
Good lord if it be thy wyll and pleasure
Pertynyt her to abyde with vs and endure

O blesyd abbasse thou art our succoute
Our singuler comfort both day and nyght
Our helpe and refuge agayne all langoure
Our speciall defence vnder god almyght
Alas swete maistres and lady bryght
Why wyll you departe from vs so hastely
But agayne deth may be no remedy.

COf the departure of this holy abbasse and howe she
appetyd psaine houre to a noble prefect curyng
hym from sickenesse of his throte.

This venerable virgyn expirid sothely
The riit day of August to blis eternall
Angels were present with mycle melody
To receyue the soule from the lyfe tempertall
S. Radegundc. e.s.

For euer to reigne / in the see celestiall
To haue her metite / and glorificacion
For her great vertue / and contemplacion

And at the same houre / of her deparryng
Quareours laboryng / in the mounte therby
Her swete armony of angels singyng
One sayd howe the boyce of a sad company
Ascendeth to the eares of god almyghty
Suffre her no lenger to enduris distres
Take her to ioy / and eterne quietnes.

Whan the angels saveng / thus endyd was
They receyued the soule / of this fayre lady
And brought it singyng / to the celestiall palace
(As afore is sayd) to reigne eternally
Unto whiche place / of endles glory
Pray for vs abbasse / and holy moniali
That we may thyder come / both one and all

Manyfolde merites / and myracles memoratyon
Magnifien this mayde / with great magnificence
Enduryng the tyme / of this present lyfe
And at her departure / knownen by experiance
For she apperyd ghostly in presence
The same houre she passyd / from this lyfe dolorous
To a great gouernoure / called Demolemus

This sayd Demolemus / was painfully cruciat
In his brest and throte / by host and swellyng
His breth restrained with passyons tortuat
Byght like to expire / at euery hours endyng

Radegunde bad hym straughtely commaundynge
To lose. viii. prisoners within his Layle and holde
And he shulde haue helth and pleasure manyfolde

26

(Whiche blysoun past he waked sodenly
Callyng to mynde her wyll and commaundement
Knewe well by the blysoun that this noble lady
Than was departed from this lyfe present
Prouyng the trueth by messanger diligent
Afterwarde he sende his seruaunt to the prison
Deliuerd all captiue from payne and affliction

Incontynently by merit and grace of this abbasie
Denolemus intended of sickenes and infyzmite
His throte and his heed whiche wosfull was
Were sone delyuuered from all penalyte
His breth restored at his owne lyberte
This sayd ruler and the prisoners all
Praysed this virgyn with mynde speciall

Whiche sayd myracles notyfied playne
Thoro we the countrey and all the region
Many poore prisoners sufferyng great payne
Made darly prayers and humble supplicacion
Unto this lady promysing an oblation
Desiryng her suffrage with humblite
Were sauad from dech and put at lyberte.

How saint Radegund cured one of her seruauntes
from the plague of fier sittynge in her chayre
Without auctorite and right.

S. Radegunde.

e.u.

Sonne after the departurce of this puce brygyn
A woman of Wiluoberga one of her famlyc
Of hys ambicion willyng to donyn
Sat in her charcer right presumptuously
Commendynge her selfe that place moost worthy
So whan she had done this offence gteuous
The punysshement of god fell on her dolozous

Her body brented as doth a hote furnace
The synde ascended to the ayre on hys
The Payne continued and never ceassed was
Thre dayes and iii. nyghtes induryng feruently
This wofull woman seyng no remedie
With hert penitent made playne confession
Of her euyll dede and hys presumption

She sayd swete Radegunde haue pitie on me
O comly quene forgyve me myn offence
Ceasse this feruent plague I pray to the
Pardon my pryde and great negligence
I haue offended vout hys prehemynce
And euill trespassed agaynst vout hys honoure
Sawe me swete lady from Payne and doloure

Also the people on her had compasyon
Tenderly for her prayde knelyng on kne
Unto our sauour with hys deuocion
And to swnt Radegunde her helpe to be
Anone this brygyn on her hauyng pite
Ceassed this feruent fyer of punysshement
This woman was sauued and cured from torment

CA b^reue rehersall of the great profet and remedy
founde by true oblation made to this moniall.

27

These folowyd myracles / and other many one
Infinite to rehersall seriously
This virgin shewed / by singuler deuotion
Unto all people sick and in miserie
Desirynge her prayars / and suffrages mekely
All suche departed from her with gladnesse
Whiche came to her presence / in wo and heuenesse

Among all myracles after our intelligence
Whiche Radegunde shewed by her humilitie
One is moost vsuall had in experiance
Among the common people / noted with hert fce
By offsetting of otes / after theyz degre
At her holy aulters where myracles in sight
Dayly haue be done by grace day and nyght

By oblation of othes / halt / lame / and blynde
Hath ben restored / into vrospurite
Dome men to syke / aboue cours of kynde
Sickemen deliuered / from varne and miseric
Maidens hath kent theyz vire virginitie
Myddowes defended from creuous oppression
And clarkes exalced / by her to promocion

Many other myracles she shewed erynesse
To euery estate / religiouse and rurall
By her great vertue / merite / and 'goodnesse
Whiche be nat rehersed / here in speciall
But who so lyst to knowe her myracles all

S. Radegunde

e. iii.

May farther enquire/ of theyr benignite
The boke of her myracles wher in they written be

Whiche miracles/ who redeth curiously
Marke mynde/ and bere them well away
Shall fynde that our lorde god the kyng of glory
Sheweth his myghty powet day by day
For all suche: whiche in theyr hartes fynde may
Hym to loue/ and serue aboue all thyngē
And hym to folowe/ gladly in theyr lyuyngē

Lyke as dyd this virgyn pudicall
As in her lyfe I haue made mencion
She forsoke the pleasures/great and small
Of this worlde: and set all her affection
Dorely to lyue in straute religion
In prayer/fastyng/ and worthy penaunce
With watche/labour/ and simple sustinaunce

She viseted the sickē persons impotent
And ministred/ with good hert and mynde
To them suche thynges/ as were conuenient
She succoured both lame/halt/ and blynde
And the sore lazers/ where she dyd them fynde
She wasshed/ and touched theyr sores tenderly
And neuer abhorred/ any malady

Her almes she gaue/ there as she sawe nede
To monasteries/ and persons religious
Bresly to speke/ many a vertuous dede
She fulfylled: for whiche our lorde Iesus
For her shewed suche miracles gloriouſ

What tyme she was here in this woldelyng
And also syth her hens away partyng.

28

CA prayer or orisoun of the blesyd quene
Radegunde moniall and abbasse.



Noble princesse/ shoutyng in vertue
Sonne of kyngis blodde/by courfe of nature
O blesyd Radegund the spouses of Jesu
A myrour of mekenesse/to every creature
In thy yong age/refusyng wordly pleasure
Rowte reynest in heuen/and ioy lastyng ay
We the besyke/swete brygn pute
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

O comly quene/and lady excellent
Somtyme vnder spousage/lyueng in chastite
Entendyng so to please our lord omnipotent
And the woldē refuse with all vanite
A wyse and a mayde as fewe other be
Weryng the herd heare vnder garmentes gay
At our departure of thy benignite
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

Thy chast conuersacion vnder matrimonye
Ever intended holy perfecyon
Dayly fulfillyng the werkesse of mercye
And vpon the poore hauing compassion
Releuynge prisonets in wofull affliction
Most mercifull princesse proued all way
We the require/with humble supplicacion
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

And whan thou was in holy religion
Thou shewed example of humilitie
To all thy systers/ and congregacion
Howe they shulde kepe theyz chastite
Theyz true profission/ the essencials thre
A lanterne of light shening verray
Wherfore we pray the of thy charrte
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

Euery creature in this present lyfe
May take of the partyt unitacion
Both quenc and princesse/lady and wyfe
Reinembryng thy straytenesse in religion
Thy prayers/penaunce/bigils/meditacion
The torment of thy body/without delay
In euery tyme namely in lenton
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

Also for thy vertue and great holynesse
Many myracles were shewed both day and nyght
People were cured/by the from sickenesse
Halt and lame heled/blynd had theyz sight
Impotent persons/ restored to myght
Wickyd spites abiecte/it is no nay
Of thy great charite swete lady bright
Preserue and defende vs both nyght and day

O beauteous garme and saphyre celestiall
O worthy diamounde/shening with houour
In the heuenlyt empire with ior angelicall
Praysing and louyng our blessed sauour
Make thou intercession/sheweng thy devoutt
For vs thy seruauntes/as thou well may

29
Namely at this tyme/and at euery houre
Preseue and defende vs/both nyght and day

O cubicunde rose brenant in pulcitude
Out dayly comfort/pleasant to be holde
O lilly whyte floure/ shenyng with claritude
O radiant ster /passyng perle and golde
Out singulet defence/and succoure to be tolde
To thy spouse Iesu/for vs thou dayly pray
That we may repente/our synne manyfolde
Preseue and defende vs both nyght and day

For vs make instance/**O** gracious lady
O quene and princesse/moniall and abbasse
That we may optayne here pardon and mercy
And cleare be absolued/from synne and trespass
And after this lyfe/to se the gloriouſe face
O of the blesyd trinite/ in blis to our pay
Where ior is infinite/and eternall grace
Helpe virgyn Radegunde/both nyght and day.

Ca brefe conducyon/ the end of this poore translacyon
mouyng the reders to accept this lytell
vnworthy to be redde.



My beloued brother/in our lord Iesu
My faythfull louer/and speciall fynde
Glad I am to know your goodnes & I wt
To whome with humilitie I me recommed
She wyng to you þ I haue brought to end
And translate in to englissh/e the noble strop
Of mayden Radegune as ye desyred me

Requisyng you tenderly of your gentilnes
To accept this present poore translacion
Excusyng my ignorance/and symplenesse
Takyng my mynde/and humble intention
Whiche warke is done /of no presumption
Also pardon my termes though they rude be
Scrutles of sentence full of prolixite

Nowe to all poetis flouryng moost eloquent
And to all other/that this lyfe shall rede or se
With humble submissioun/I do it represent
Desiryng them all/of theyr charite
To correct and reforne it where is necessite
Which sayd translation/and indigne werke
Is for comynon people/written for no clerke

And where this virgyn/and gracious lady
Hath be kept scilent and close a long season
Knownen to fewe persons/within this countrey
Therefore we purposed/bnder her proteccion
To declare her lyfe and gosly conuersacion
Dilatyng her fame/and shewe her excellencie
Extollyng her name with great magnificece

Every greate estate/empresse/quene/and duchesse
Example may take at this moniall
To encrease in vertu/and proued mekenesse
In churche to be deuout/and courtese in hall
And to the poore people for to be liberall
Every true matrone her doctrine folowyng
In heuen may be sure to haue a wormyng

30
And who so that is a person religioun
May let me at this lady to kepe pacience
To be humble in soule/gentyll and vertuous
Obseruynge chastite/ and true obedience
With wilfull pouerte/ without concupisience
And euer content be with what Jesu doth sende
þeyng humble thankes vnto your lyues end.

Go forth lytell boke/blacke be thy bessure
As euer mounyng inable to come to lyght
Submit the also vnto euery creature
Whiche reason hath desyng to haue a sight
O blesyd sauour/and lord moost of myght
Preserue this poore boke from hate and emmyte
With all humble reders of thy benignite.

Imen.

¶ Thus endeth the lyfe of saynt Radegunde Jam;
printed by Rycharde Pynson printet
to the kynges noble grace Cum
privilegio a rege
indulcio.



